

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 1, further comprising an applied spacer.

10. (Withdrawn) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 9, wherein the spacer is a solid polymer.

11. (Withdrawn) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 10, wherein the spacer is rubber.

12. (Withdrawn) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 9, wherein the spacer is from about 0.005 inch to about 0.1 inch thick.

13. (Withdrawn) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 9, wherein the spacer is from about 0.01 inch to about 2 inch wide.

14. (Withdrawn) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 1, further comprising a folded spacer comprising a fold in the protective layer.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) An assembly of protected prefinished fiber cement products comprising a plurality of protected prefinished fiber cement articles arranged in a stack, wherein a protected prefinished fiber cement product comprises:

a fiber cement product, a non-adhesive finish layer applied to the fiber cement product, and a multilayer protective layer comprising an adhesive layer, said protective layer adhered to the finish layer by said adhesive layer, wherein

the protective layer protects the finish layer from damage in storage, transport, and handling,

removing the protective layer leaves no residue on the finish layer and does not damage the finish layer, and

the protective layer resists tearing on removal.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement products are stacked on a pallet.

20. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the fiber cement product has a front surface and a back surface and has a finish layer applied to the front surface, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement products are stacked front-to-back.

21. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the fiber cement product has a front surface and a back surface and has a finish layer applied to the front surface,

wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement products are stacked front-to-front and/or back-to-back.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement products are banded together.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a building comprising:
obtaining a protected prefinished fiber cement product, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement product comprises

a fiber cement product, a finish layer applied to the fiber cement product, and a protective layer adhered to the finish layer, wherein
the protective layer protects the finish layer from damage in storage, transport, and handling,

removing the protective layer leaves no residue on the finish layer and does not damage the finish layer, and

the protective layer resists tearing on removal;
removing the protective layer; and
fastening the fiber cement product to a building frame.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the protective layer is removed before the fiber cement product is fastened to the building frame.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the protective layer is removed after the fiber cement product is fastened to the building frame.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of manufacturing a protected prefinished fiber cement product, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement product comprises a fiber cement product and a finish layer applied to the fiber cement product, the method comprising:

adhering a protective layer to the finish layer, wherein

the protective layer protects the finish layer from damage in storage, transport, and handling,

removing the protective layer leaves no residue on the finish layer and does not damage the finish layer, and

the protective layer resists tearing on removal.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the protective layer is adhered to the finish layer with an adhesive.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the adhesive comprises an adhesive material selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate, ethylene acrylic acid, polyvinyl ether, rubber, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, butyl rubber, neoprene rubber, ethylene propylene diene rubber, polyisobutylene, butadiene-acrylonitrile polymer, thermoplastic elastomers, styrene-butadiene rubber, poly-alpha-olefins, amorphous polyolefins, silicones, ethylene-containing copolymers, polyurethanes, polyamides, epoxys, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylpyrrolidone copolymers, polyesters, mixtures thereof, and copolymers thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the adhesive comprises ethylene acrylic acid.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the adhesive is applied between the finish layer and the protective layer.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the protective layer comprises a polymer film.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the polymer film comprises a polymer resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyester, polyamide, silicone, blends thereof, and copolymers thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the polymer resin is polyethylene.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising an applied spacer.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the spacer is a solid polymer.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the spacer is rubber.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the spacer is from about 0.005 inch to about 0.1 inch thick.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the spacer is from about 0.01 inch to about 2 inch wide.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising a folded spacer comprising a fold in the protective layer.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.0001 inch to about 0.08 inch thick.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.0003 inch to about 0.03 inch thick.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.001 inch to about 0.01 inch thick.

43. (Withdrawn) A protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto used for manufacturing a protected prefinished fiber cement product, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement product comprises:

a fiber cement product, a finish layer applied to the fiber cement product, and a protective layer adhered to the finish layer, wherein

the protective layer protects the finish layer from damage in storage, transport, and handling,

removing the protective layer leaves no residue on the finish layer and does not damage the finish layer, and

the protective layer resists tearing on removal;

the protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto comprising a protective layer and a spacer bonded to a face of the protective layer.

44. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43 packaged in a roll.

45. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43, wherein the spacer is a solid polymer.

46. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 45, wherein the spacer is rubber.

47. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43, wherein the spacer is from about 0.005 inch to about 0.1 inch thick.

48. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43, wherein the spacer is from about 0.01 inch to about 2 inch wide.

49. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43, further comprising an adhesive applied to the face of the protective layer opposite to which the spacer is bonded.

50. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 49, wherein the adhesive comprises an adhesive material selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate, ethylene acrylic acid, polyvinyl ether, rubber, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, butyl rubber, neoprene rubber, ethylene propylene diene rubber, polyisobutylene, butadiene-

acrylonitrile polymer, thermoplastic elastomers, styrene-butadiene rubber, poly-alpha-olefins, amorphous polyolefins, silicones, ethylene-containing copolymers, polyurethanes, polyamides, epoxys, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylpyrrolidone copolymers, polyesters, mixtures thereof, and copolymers thereof.

51. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 50, wherein the adhesive comprises ethylene acrylic acid.

52. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43, wherein the protective layer comprises a polymer film.

53. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 52, wherein the polymer film comprises a polymer resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyester, polyamide, silicone, blends thereof, and copolymers thereof.

54. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 53; wherein the polymer resin is polyethylene.

55. (Withdrawn) The protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto of claim 43; wherein the protective layer is from about 0.0001 inch to about 0.08 inch thick.

56. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a protective layer with a spacer bonded thereto used for manufacturing a protected prefinished fiber cement product, wherein the protected prefinished fiber cement product comprises:

a fiber cement product, a finish layer applied to the fiber cement product, and a protective layer adhered to the finish layer, wherein

the protective layer protects the finish layer from damage in storage, transport, and handling,

removing the protective layer leaves no residue on the finish layer and does not damage the finish layer, and

the protective layer resists tearing on removal;

the method comprising bonding a spacer to a face of a protective layer.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, further comprising packaging the protective layer with spacers in a roll.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the spacer is a solid polymer.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 58, wherein the spacer is rubber.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the spacer is from about 0.005 inch to about 0.1 inch thick.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the spacer is from about 0.01 inch to about 2 inch wide.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the spacer is bonded to the protective layer thermally.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the spacer is bonded to the protective layer using an adhesive.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the protective layer further comprises an adhesive applied to the face of the protective layer opposite to which the spacer is bonded.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 64, wherein the adhesive comprises an adhesive material selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate, ethylene acrylic acid, polyvinyl ether, rubber, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, butyl rubber, neoprene rubber, ethylene propylene diene rubber, polyisobutylene, butadiene-acrylonitrile polymer, thermoplastic elastomers, styrene-butadiene rubber, poly-alpha-olefins, amorphous polyolefins, silicones, ethylene-containing copolymers, polyurethanes, polyamides, epoxys, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylpyrrolidone copolymers, polyesters, mixtures thereof, and copolymers thereof.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the adhesive comprises ethylene acrylic acid.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the protective layer comprises a polymer film.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 67, wherein the polymer film comprises a polymer resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyester, polyamide, silicone, blends thereof, and copolymers thereof.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein the polymer resin is polyethylene.

70. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.0001 inch to about 0.08 inch thick.

71. (Currently amended) A protected prefinished fiber cement product comprising:
a fiber cement article, a non-adhesive finish layer applied to the fiber cement product, and
a multilayer protective film comprising an adhesive layer, and said film is adhered to the finish
layer by said adhesive layer, wherein

the protective film is selectively removable
and

removing the protective film substantially leaves no residue on the finish layer.

72. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of
claim 71, wherein the adhesive comprises an adhesive material selected from the group
consisting of polyacrylate, ethylene acrylic acid, polyvinyl ether, rubber, polyisoprene,
polychloroprene, butyl rubber, neoprene rubber, ethylene propylene diene rubber,
polyisobutylene, butadiene-acrylonitrile polymer, thermoplastic elastomers, styrene-butadiene
rubber, poly-alpha-olefins, amorphous polyolefins, silicones, ethylene-containing copolymers,

polyurethanes, polyamides, epoxys, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylpyrrolidone copolymers, polyesters, mixtures thereof, and copolymers thereof.

73. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 72, wherein the adhesive comprises ethylene acrylic acid.

74. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 71, wherein the protective film comprises a polymer.

75. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 74, wherein the polymer film comprises a polymer resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyester, polyamide, silicone, blends thereof, and copolymers thereof.

76. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 75, wherein the polymer resin is polyethylene.

77. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 71, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.0001 inch to about 0.08 inch thick.

78. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 77, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.0003 inch to about 0.03 inch thick.

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79. (Previously presented) The protected prefinished fiber cement product of claim 78, wherein the protective layer is from about 0.001 inch to about 0.01 inch thick.